

NEWS

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HIGHLIGHTS OF ATLANTA, GA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY JANUARY 2003

Workers in the Atlanta metropolitan area averaged \$19.17 per hour during January 2003, according to a new survey released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin reported that white-collar workers averaged \$23.31 per hour and accounted for 55 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$15.61 per hour and represented 27 percent of the workforce, while the remaining 18 percent worked in service occupations and earned \$11.39 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 354 firms representing 861,600 workers in the Atlanta metropolitan area, which is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia. Eighty percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Atlanta metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 104 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, pharmacists averaged \$39.95 per hour; registered nurses, \$24.41; secretaries, \$17.31; and bank tellers, \$10.66. Blue-collar occupations included automobile mechanics earning \$18.54 per hour; truck drivers at \$16.77; and stock handlers and baggers, \$10.22. In the service occupations, public service police and detectives averaged \$17.27 per hour; nursing aides, orderlies and attendants, \$9.36; and janitors and cleaners, \$9.04.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Atlanta area averaged \$19.83 per hour and part-timers earned \$10.08. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$19.19 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.56. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$15.00 per hour, while those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$23.42.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that has integrates three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an

occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgement, supervision received, and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Atlanta, GA National Compensation Survey January 2003 (Bulletin 3120-06). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Atlanta Information Office by calling 404-331-3415. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/home.htm>. Select survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Atlanta by dialing 404-331-3403 and requesting document 9430.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Atlanta Information Office at 404-331-3415 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, January 2003

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$19.17	2.8	\$18.93	3.5	\$20.24	2.2
All excluding sales	19.21	2.9	18.96	3.6	20.25	2.2
White collar	23.31	2.8	23.52	3.5	22.56	3.1
White collar excluding sales	23.97	3.0	24.46	3.8	22.58	3.1
Professional specialty and technical	28.88	6.5	30.37	9.1	25.87	2.8
Professional specialty	29.55	3.0	31.13	4.1	27.09	3.0
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	33.46	4.0	33.72	4.4	—	—
Electrical and electronic engineers	39.02	4.2	39.02	4.2	—	—
Industrial engineers	29.41	10.0	29.41	10.0	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	35.01	10.7	35.01	10.7	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	30.92	7.1	31.62	6.9	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	30.11	6.0	30.95	5.8	—	—
Operations and systems researchers and analysts	33.56	12.0	33.56	12.0	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	26.67	3.1	27.22	3.3	24.22	6.4
Registered nurses	24.41	1.1	24.48	.9	24.09	5.9
Pharmacists	39.95	2.1	39.95	2.1	—	—
Respiratory therapists	21.04	5.4	—	—	—	—
Teachers, college and university	28.55	6.6	27.16	11.0	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	28.52	3.0	22.88	14.6	28.96	2.9
Prekindergarten and kindergarten	27.22	1.5	—	—	—	—
Elementary school teachers	30.19	5.7	—	—	30.29	5.8
Secondary school teachers	29.76	3.5	—	—	29.73	3.5
Teachers, n.e.c.	16.27	12.4	17.92	15.6	—	—
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	19.69	12.9	—	—	19.89	13.3
Social workers	20.02	13.0	—	—	20.04	13.4
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	35.40	8.5	35.40	8.5	—	—
Professional, n.e.c.	36.64	6.9	36.64	6.9	—	—
Technical	27.02	25.2	28.83	28.2	17.72	10.0
Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians	17.67	6.9	17.67	6.9	—	—
Radiological technicians	22.62	2.6	22.62	2.6	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	15.37	3.2	15.36	4.0	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	15.80	8.0	17.15	9.4	13.96	11.5
Electrical and electronic technicians	21.48	10.6	22.61	10.4	—	—
Computer programmers	24.85	4.3	25.82	3.8	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	18.85	5.5	18.85	5.5	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.33	3.1	32.18	3.3	28.21	7.0
Executives, administrators, and managers	36.51	4.4	35.71	5.3	40.23	4.9
Administrators and officials, public administration	22.15	7.5	—	—	22.15	7.5
Financial managers	37.22	11.2	32.41	7.1	—	—
Managers, marketing, advertising, and public relations	33.76	12.2	33.76	12.2	—	—
Administrators, education and related fields	42.20	5.9	—	—	46.23	3.5
Managers, medicine and health	38.79	10.4	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	38.32	6.1	38.32	6.1	—	—
Management related	23.93	5.9	26.50	7.4	17.01	6.4
Accountants and auditors	21.69	16.0	25.52	10.6	—	—
Other financial officers	23.94	6.5	23.94	6.5	—	—
Management analysts	38.40	29.9	38.40	29.9	—	—
Personnel, training, and labor relations specialists	19.59	16.2	25.23	12.3	—	—
Construction inspectors	16.99	2.0	—	—	16.99	2.0
Management related, n.e.c.	24.36	9.6	26.03	12.8	—	—
Sales	18.67	11.8	18.69	11.9	—	—
Supervisors, sales	29.38	9.5	29.38	9.5	—	—
Sales representatives, mining, manufacturing, and wholesale	31.74	18.1	31.74	18.1	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, January 2003 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
White collar —Continued						
Sales —Continued						
Sales workers, parts	\$20.79	6.4	\$20.79	6.4	—	—
Sales workers, other commodities	9.45	2.4	9.45	2.4	—	—
Cashiers	8.69	3.0	8.68	3.1	—	—
Sales support, n.e.c.	15.04	23.4	15.04	23.4	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical						
Supervisors, general office	15.06	1.4	15.38	1.8	\$13.80	2.1
Supervisors, financial records processing	20.51	10.2	20.51	10.2	—	—
Secretaries	22.24	10.9	22.24	10.9	—	—
Receptionists	17.31	3.4	18.43	4.2	14.15	2.4
Information clerks, n.e.c.	11.25	4.0	11.25	4.0	—	—
Order clerks	14.21	3.6	14.30	4.1	—	—
Personnel clerks, except payroll and timekeeping	14.97	3.6	14.97	3.6	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	16.39	7.4	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	13.26	5.5	13.66	7.1	12.56	8.1
Billing clerks	13.49	3.6	13.57	5.3	13.40	3.5
Mail clerks, except postal service	12.89	7.8	12.89	7.8	—	—
Dispatchers	11.01	7.2	11.01	7.2	—	—
Traffic, shipping and receiving clerks	19.53	7.2	—	—	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	12.62	15.1	12.83	16.1	—	—
Insurance adjusters, examiners, and	14.83	7.8	14.87	9.1	—	—
investigators	17.20	15.9	—	—	—	—
Investigators and adjusters, except insurance	14.65	8.8	14.65	8.8	—	—
Bill and account collectors	13.93	7.1	13.90	7.4	—	—
General office clerks	13.53	7.6	13.40	8.7	14.20	11.0
Bank tellers	10.66	4.9	10.66	4.9	—	—
Data entry keyers	14.44	16.1	15.40	19.6	—	—
Teachers' aides	12.49	.4	—	—	12.48	.4
Administrative support, n.e.c.	16.66	7.1	16.80	7.1	—	—
Blue collar	15.61	2.0	15.60	2.1	15.73	5.6
Precision production, craft, and repair						
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	20.27	3.0	20.35	3.3	19.15	4.7
Automobile mechanics	25.44	11.1	23.79	18.1	—	—
Bus, truck, and stationary engine mechanics	18.54	5.2	—	—	—	—
Industrial machinery repairers	18.89	2.2	18.89	2.2	—	—
Electronic repairers, communications and	18.63	3.7	18.63	3.7	—	—
industrial equipment	21.54	10.0	21.94	10.7	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	17.35	7.8	17.87	8.4	—	—
Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.	20.30	21.8	—	—	—	—
Electricians	18.83	8.9	19.81	22.7	—	—
Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters	19.14	19.0	19.14	19.0	—	—
Supervisors, production	24.48	12.2	24.48	12.2	—	—
Butchers and meat cutters	9.78	14.5	9.78	14.5	—	—
Inspectors, testers, and graders	22.23	17.1	22.67	18.2	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
Packaging and filling machine operators	14.78	4.5	14.79	4.5	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	15.86	19.8	15.86	19.8	—	—
Assemblers	14.13	11.0	14.13	11.0	—	—
Production inspectors, checkers and examiners ..	15.80	6.7	15.80	6.7	—	—
.....	11.46	5.6	11.46	5.6	—	—
Transportation and material moving						
Truck drivers	15.58	5.6	15.77	6.2	14.36	6.1
Bus drivers	16.77	3.9	16.94	3.7	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	13.67	9.5	—	—	14.86	7.4
Miscellaneous material moving equipment	14.71	5.2	14.71	5.2	—	—
operators, n.e.c.	17.72	13.0	17.72	13.0	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers						
Stock handlers and baggers	11.09	3.6	11.07	3.7	11.55	4.7
.....	10.22	7.9	10.22	7.9	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, January 2003 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers —Continued						
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	\$14.33	3.3	\$14.33	3.3	—	—
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners	12.76	17.0	12.76	17.0	—	—
Hand packers and packagers	9.62	8.6	9.62	8.6	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	9.61	3.9	9.52	4.3	—	—
Service						
Protective service	11.39	3.6	10.16	3.4	\$15.05	4.2
Supervisors, firefighters and fire prevention	13.28	8.9	10.20	8.9	17.20	5.2
Supervisors, police and detectives	26.31	7.3	—	—	26.31	7.3
Firefighting	25.12	16.1	—	—	25.12	16.1
Police and detectives, public service	15.32	2.8	—	—	14.21	2.6
Correctional institution officers	17.27	5.5	—	—	17.27	5.5
Guards and police, except public service	14.06	5.6	—	—	14.06	5.6
Food service	9.86	9.3	9.73	9.2	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	8.22	3.6	7.82	2.6	13.23	22.4
Bartenders	4.50	10.5	4.50	10.5	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	5.14	4.1	5.14	4.1	—	—
Other food service	3.68	16.7	3.68	16.7	—	—
Supervisors, food preparation and service	10.91	6.9	10.58	6.8	13.23	22.4
Cooks	16.19	16.9	16.19	16.9	—	—
Food counter, fountain, and related	11.44	10.4	11.44	10.4	—	—
Kitchen workers, food preparation	8.29	5.3	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	9.31	4.0	9.03	3.4	—	—
Health service	9.40	18.6	7.68	11.1	14.23	25.6
Health aides, except nursing	9.78	3.1	9.57	3.0	11.47	3.3
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	11.31	6.8	10.85	9.6	—	—
Cleaning and building service	9.36	2.0	9.33	2.0	—	—
Maids and housemen	9.11	3.6	8.74	3.5	10.60	5.7
Janitors and cleaners	8.30	1.7	8.30	1.7	—	—
Personal service	9.04	4.2	8.48	3.6	10.60	5.7
Service, n.e.c.	18.60	11.8	21.67	13.8	10.71	7.9
	7.15	10.3	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, January 2003

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$19.83	\$10.08	\$23.82	\$18.77	\$19.08	\$20.75
All excluding sales	19.75	10.44	24.03	18.77	19.34	15.90
White collar	23.91	11.96	—	22.69	23.15	26.03
White-collar excluding sales	24.25	15.01	—	23.25	24.06	—
Professional specialty and technical	29.06	21.41	—	27.14	28.88	—
Professional specialty	29.66	24.40	—	29.53	29.55	—
Technical	27.37	15.66	—	20.21	27.02	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	31.46	—	—	31.33	31.28	—
Sales	21.10	8.70	—	18.72	14.34	28.90
Administrative support, including clerical	15.28	10.60	19.09	14.94	15.02	—
Blue collar	15.94	10.26	19.19	14.56	15.68	14.90
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.27	—	22.00	19.55	20.19	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.78	—	20.33	12.80	15.15	11.83
Transportation and material moving	15.60	15.36	18.95	14.75	14.61	18.40
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.60	7.96	11.75	10.97	11.31	—
Service	11.98	7.64	16.81	11.23	11.38	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	2.9	5.8	19.9	2.6	2.9	16.2
All excluding sales	2.9	6.6	20.4	2.6	3.0	8.5
White collar	2.9	6.4	—	2.0	3.3	16.1
White-collar excluding sales	3.2	9.4	—	2.0	3.3	—
Professional specialty and technical	6.6	8.4	—	2.9	6.5	—
Professional specialty	3.0	9.8	—	3.0	3.0	—
Technical	25.7	4.0	—	4.5	25.2	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.3	—	—	3.1	3.2	—
Sales	11.8	4.3	—	12.2	8.3	16.8
Administrative support, including clerical	1.3	9.6	4.3	1.5	1.5	—
Blue collar	1.9	11.6	3.0	2.7	1.5	12.3
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.0	—	2.2	3.6	2.9	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.4	—	2.1	6.6	3.6	21.5
Transportation and material moving	5.7	13.1	7.6	4.3	5.1	1.9
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.8	4.8	7.5	3.9	3.4	—
Service	3.3	15.9	5.5	3.8	3.6	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Atlanta, GA, January 2003

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$18.93	\$15.00	\$19.81	\$17.09	\$23.42
All excluding sales	18.96	14.81	19.82	16.68	23.69
White collar	23.52	19.68	24.17	21.92	26.48
White-collar excluding sales	24.46	21.41	24.86	22.24	27.09
Professional specialty and technical	30.37	31.16	30.30	26.43	32.72
Professional specialty	31.13	35.52	30.70	31.43	30.32
Technical	28.83	20.98	29.48	18.85	38.47
Executive, administrative, and managerial	32.18	31.47	32.25	33.46	31.41
Sales	18.69	16.17	19.75	20.71	15.98
Administrative support, including clerical	15.38	14.30	15.59	15.18	16.12
Blue collar	15.60	14.19	15.98	13.90	19.62
Precision production, craft, and repair	20.35	18.69	20.64	17.81	24.56
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	14.79	14.27	14.88	13.07	17.67
Transportation and material moving	15.77	15.69	15.81	14.29	19.53
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	11.07	10.55	11.26	10.25	13.55
Service	10.16	7.24	11.15	9.59	14.43
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.7	6.3
All excluding sales	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.0	6.5
White collar	3.5	5.3	3.9	5.3	7.3
White-collar excluding sales	3.8	6.7	4.3	5.4	7.6
Professional specialty and technical	9.1	6.6	10.0	9.3	14.3
Professional specialty	4.1	6.3	4.3	8.4	3.4
Technical	28.2	10.5	30.0	7.4	41.6
Executive, administrative, and managerial	3.3	19.1	3.9	3.3	6.0
Sales	11.9	7.2	14.9	17.1	12.9
Administrative support, including clerical	1.8	6.8	2.5	4.0	2.8
Blue collar	2.1	3.6	2.8	4.4	3.2
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.3	4.8	3.7	3.5	3.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.5	6.7	5.4	12.4	8.0
Transportation and material moving	6.2	2.2	9.3	7.6	6.3
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.7	4.2	5.2	7.2	2.0
Service	3.4	6.8	5.3	5.0	11.8

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate.

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